



2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Purpose and Authority

The *purpose for developing this plan is to comply with Section 322 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act or the Act)*, 42 U.S. C. 5165, enacted under Sec. 104 the *Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, (DMA 2000)* Public Law 106-390 of October 30, 2000. In addition to DMA 2000 compliance, the plan is developed to establish a comprehensive disaster hazard mitigation program to reduce the loss of life and property, human suffering, economic disruption, and disaster assistance costs resulting from nature and human-caused disasters in Arizona.

This plan was prepared by the Arizona Division of Emergency Management (ADEM), a division of the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA). Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS) 26-305 establishes ADEM under DEMA via the following:

A. There is established in the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs the Division of Emergency Management which is administered by the department, under the authority of the Adjutant General, subject to powers vested in the Governor as provided by law.

The section goes on to designate ADEM as the State of Arizona entity responsible for emergency preparedness, including mitigation, via the following:

B. The division shall prepare for and coordinate those emergency management activities which may be required to reduce the impact of disaster on persons or property.

C. Through the powers vested in the Governor, the division shall coordinate the cooperative effort of all governmental agencies including the Federal government, this State and its political subdivisions to alleviate suffering and loss resulting from disaster.

The *DMA 2000* is focused primarily on the importance of pre-disaster infrastructure mitigation planning and the control and streamlining of the administration of federal disaster relief and programs to promote mitigation activities. According to the Act, the purpose of Title I – Pre-disaster Hazard Mitigation is:

...to establish a national disaster hazard mitigation program –

- (1) to reduce the loss of life and property, human suffering, economic disruption, and disaster assistance costs resulting from natural disasters; and*
- (2) to provide a source of pre-disaster hazard mitigation funding that will assist States and local governments (including Indian tribes) in implementing effective hazard mitigation measures that are designed to ensure the continued functionality of critical services and facilities after a natural disaster.*

Major provisions of the Act include the following: funding for pre-disaster mitigation activities; developing multi-hazard maps to better understand risk; establishing state and local government infrastructure mitigation planning requirements; defining how states can assume more responsibility in managing the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP); and, adjusting ways in which management costs for projects are funded.

2.2 Plan Description

Following this Introduction, this plan consists of the following sections:

Planning Process: Describes the process followed to develop this Plan.

Community Descriptions: Describes the State in terms of its geography, population, economy and hazards.

Risk Assessment: Identification of hazards that could affect Arizona, summary of what might be affected and the State's vulnerability to them.

Mitigation Strategy: The State's commitment to mitigating against damage to people and property in Arizona.

Local Planning Coordination: Describes the State's involvement in coordinating and guiding local mitigation planning efforts.

Plan Maintenance Procedures: Describes the process the State will use to monitor/update the Plan and monitor mitigation activity progress.